

Stand-alone Grants

The following grants are referred to as stand-alone grants because each one has a separate appropriation.

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Technical Education

This funding supports technical education in accordance with 16 V.S.A. §37(5), state financial assistance. Additionally, technical center equipment funding is included in this appropriation as shown below instead of in the Capital bill as it was done in prior years.

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
GRANTS	11,633,000	12,411,841	778,841
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
EDUCATION FUND	11,633,000	12,411,841	778,841

SOURCE OF FUNDS DETAIL

(B) EDUCATION FUND			
GRANTS			
1 Tech. Ed. Tuition Reduction	8,035,190	8,240,653	205,463
2 Tech. Ed. Salary Assistance	1,904,065	1,902,061	(2,004)
3 Tech. Ed. Transportation	1,260,000	1,318,900	58,900
4 Youth Leadership	23,035	23,910	875
5 Secondary School Reform	100,000	103,800	3,800
6 Innovative Program Development	310,710	322,517	11,807
7 Tech Ed Equipment	0	500,000	500,000
TOTAL GRANTS	11,633,000	12,411,841	778,841
TOTAL EDUCATION FUND	11,633,000	12,411,841	778,841

Grants

1. Technical Education Tuition Reduction:

Funds are disbursed as payments to technical centers to reduce the tuition paid by school districts, based on three-year average enrollments.

2. Technical Education Salary Assistance:

Funds are disbursed as payments to technical center districts to help defray the costs of salaries for technical center directors, guidance coordinators and cooperative education coordinators.

3. Technical Education Transportation: Funds reimburse costs of transporting students to technical centers. The adjusted reimbursement rate is calculated annually per mile.

4. Youth Leadership: Funds support student leadership organizations that promote youth leadership development activities and participation in regional, state and national skills competitions.

5. Secondary School Reform: Funds support school change initiatives at the middle and secondary levels based on the High Schools on the Move principles. Initiatives include but are not limited to student engagement, integration of academic and career skills, challenging standards, improvement of instructional practice, family and community involvement and others.

6. Innovative Program Development: Funds help cover start-up costs for new and innovative programs that educate students in emerging career fields with high skills and wage potential.

7. Technical Education Equipment. Funds are distributed to technical centers to update or replace equipment. This grant was formerly funded in the capital bill but has been included here to reduce unnecessary interest expense.

Special Education Formula

The Special Education Formula is part of the Special Education program administered under the Student Support division. The formula is largely a reimbursement system that distributes funds through the grants listed on the next page. For more information on special education, see page 42.

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
GRANTS	133,794,159	142,687,975	8,893,816
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
EDUCATION FUND	133,564,159	142,457,975	8,893,816
SPECIAL FUND	230,000	230,000	0

SOURCE OF FUNDS DETAIL

(A) EDUCATION FUND			
GRANTS			
1 Mainstream Block Grant	29,591,995	30,273,765	681,770
2 Special Ed. Expend. Reimb.	95,979,545	101,640,933	5,661,388
3 Extraordinary Reimbursement	5,042,799	7,472,623	2,429,824
4 I-Team & Regional Specialist	678,457	712,978	34,521
5 Hearing Impaired	794,224	824,405	30,181
6 Visually Impaired	483,505	501,879	18,374
7 BEST	478,209	496,381	18,172
8 Act 230 Training	352,553	365,950	13,397
9 Higher Education Participation	162,872	169,061	6,189
TOTAL GRANTS	133,564,159	142,457,975	8,893,816
TOTAL EDUCATION FUNDS	133,564,159	142,457,975	8,893,816
(B) SPECIAL FUNDS			
GRANTS			
10 I-Team & Regional Specialist	230,000	230,000	0
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	230,000	230,000	0
TOTAL ALL SOURCES	133,794,159	142,687,975	8,893,816

Grants

1. Mainstream Block Grant: These funds provide a block grant for each town based on 60 percent of the statewide average salary for: (1) 9.75 special education teaching positions per 1,000 Average Daily Membership (ADM), and (2) up to two special education administrators per supervisory union/district based on ADM. (16 V.S.A. § 2961)

2. Special Education Expenditures Reimbursement (Intensive Services Reimbursement): This grant reimburses expenses based on a fixed rate for eligible special education costs not covered by another part of the formula or by federal or other state funds.

3. Extraordinary Reimbursement: Funds provide 90 percent reimbursement for high-cost services in excess of \$50,000 for individualized education programs (IEPs).

4. Interdisciplinary Team and Regional Multi-disability Specialist: This grant supports services and consultation for children who have multiple disabilities and serious emotional disturbances.

5. Hearing Impaired: Funds support services for students with hearing impairments, including salaries for six regional specialists who consult with schools on accommodating children with severe hearing impairments.

6. Visually Impaired: These funds enable the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired to employ itinerant teachers to consult with schools, provide direct instruction in Braille, assist with selection of low-vision aids and provide mobility training.

7. Building Effective Supports for Teaching (BEST): These funds assist schools in developing and implementing school-based plans to improve their ability to effectively respond to challenging student behaviors. They support training opportunities, technical assistance and regional service partnerships to meet the needs of students who have emotional and behavioral problems.

8. Act 230 Training Grants: Funds are granted to supervisory unions/districts for administrator and staff training to better meet student needs and to enhance education support systems.

9. Higher Education Participation: These funds support tuition reimbursement and stipends for special education teacher training.

10. Interdisciplinary Team and Regional Multi-disability Specialist: This grant supports services and consultation for children who have multiple disabilities and serious emotional disturbances.

State-placed Students

A state-placed student is one who is placed by the Agency of Human Services or a state-licensed agency in a school district outside of his or her parents' district(s) of residence. This program is administered through the Student Support division.

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
GRANTS	14,750,000	15,767,500	1,017,500
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
EDUCATION FUND	14,750,000	15,767,500	1,017,500

SOURCE OF FUNDS DETAIL

EDUCATION FUND			
GRANTS			
1 LEA Reimbursement	8,300,000	8,300,000	0
2 Indiv. Residential Placement	5,800,000	6,867,500	1,067,500
3 Special Services	400,000	300,000	(100,000)
4 Regular Education Tuition	<u>250,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL GRANTS	14,750,000	15,767,500	1,017,500
TOTAL EDUCATION FUNDS	14,750,000	15,767,500	1,017,500

Grants

1. LEA (Licensed Education Agency)

Reimbursement: These funds are used to reimburse school districts for special education costs beyond mainstream services incurred for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

2. Individual Residential Placement:

These funds provide payments to approved independent schools or tutorial programs for educational costs of students in residential facilities.

3. Special Services: These funds are used to reimburse school districts for special services approved by the commissioner for non-IEP students. They also may be used for payments to the Lund Home for daytime educational services for pregnant or parenting teens or for tuition or special education costs for Vermont students placed in foster care in other states.

4. Regular Education Tuition: These funds are used to reimburse towns that do not operate their own schools for tuitioning students to other school districts.

Adult Education & Literacy

This appropriation supports the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program administered as part of the Lifelong Learning division. Use of funds is coordinated with the Department of Labor and are distributed by county through a needs-based formula.

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
GRANTS	4,593,059	5,315,885	722,826
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
GENERAL FUND (A)	2,717,398	2,690,224	(27,174)
FEDERAL FUNDS (B)	875,661	875,661	0
EDUCATION FUND (C)	1,000,000	1,750,000	750,000
TOTAL ALL SOURCES	4,593,059	5,315,885	722,826

SOURCE OF FUNDS DETAIL

(A) GENERAL FUND			
GRANT (ONLY CATEGORY)	2,717,398	2,690,224	(27,174)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	2,717,398	2,690,224	(27,174)
(B) FEDERAL FUNDS			
GRANT (ONLY CATEGORY)	875,661	875,661	0
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	875,661	875,661	0
(C) EDUCATION FUND			
GRANT (ONLY CATEGORY)	1,000,000	1,750,000	750,000
TOTAL EDUCATION FUND	1,000,000	1,750,000	750,000
TOTAL ALL SOURCES	4,593,059	5,315,885	722,826

Statewide Education Spending Grant

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
GRANTS (ONLY CATEGORY)	1,063,700,000	1,107,064,375	43,364,375
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
EDUCATION FUND	1,063,700,000	1,107,064,375	43,364,375

SOURCE OF FUNDS DETAIL

EDUCATION FUND			
GRANTS			
1 Education Spending Grant	1,062,058,687	1,105,445,783	43,387,096
2 Adult Diploma Program	850,000	694,782	(155,218)
3 VT Academy of Science & Tech	191,313	249,984	58,671
4 ADM Adjustments	150,000	200,000	50,000
5 Tech FTEs Not Enrolled	450,000	473,826	23,826
TOTAL EDUCATION FUND	1,063,700,000	1,107,064,375	43,364,375

Grants

1. Education Spending Grant: Under 16 V.S.A. §4011(a), funds must be appropriated to pay for each district's education spending amount. The amount provided here is an estimate. The actual amount will be determined once all school budgets have been adopted.

2. Adult Diploma Program: This program allows adults without high school diplomas to substitute work and other experience for credit toward earning their diplomas. According to 16 V.S.A. §4011(f), the department is required to pay an amount equal to 0.26 times the Education Spending Grant for each student who completed the program's diagnostic component portion in the previous year.

3. Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST): State funding for this program is required under 16 V.S.A. §4011(e), which directs the department to pay an amount equal to 0.87 times the Education Spending Grant for each Vermont resident enrolled in the program. VAST operates an approved independent 12th-grade program housed at Vermont Technical College.

4. Average Daily Membership Adjustments (ADM): This adjustment is used to reconcile the amount of taxes raised based on equalized pupils when a district has miscounted its ADM prior to January 15, as allowed by 16 V.S.A. § 4030(d).

5. Tech Full-time Equivalents Not Enrolled: Under 16 V.S.A. § 4011(g), this payment is to refund districts for resident students attending a technical center at public expense but who are not enrolled in a public high school. These students are not counted in the district ADM.

Essential Early Education

Federal regulations require school districts to provide special education services to eligible children ages 3 to 5. Essential Early Education (EEE) serves children ages 3 to 5 who are at risk for early school failure and children birth to age 2 who have disabilities. This program is administered through the Lifelong Learning Division.

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
GRANTS (ONLY CATEGORY)	5,199,124	5,517,841	318,717
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
EDUCATION FUND	5,199,124	5,517,841	318,717

Transportation

Administered through the School Finance Team, these funds are used to reimburse about half of school district expenditures to transport students to and from school. Exact reimbursement percentages are limited by appropriated amounts and are determined by the amount of district expenditures.

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
GRANTS (ONLY CATEGORY)	14,453,479	15,002,711	549,232
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
EDUCATION FUND	14,453,479	15,002,711	549,232

Small School Support Grants

Under 16 V.S.A. §4015, these funds provide formula grants to schools with a two-year average combined enrollment of less than 100 students, or with an average grade size of 20 or fewer students. They also provide financial stability grants to limit the loss of funds in small schools with declining enrollments. These funds are administered through the School Finance Team.

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
GRANTS (ONLY CATEGORY)	6,093,552	6,562,385	468,833
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
EDUCATION FUND	6,093,552	6,562,385	468,833

Capital Debt Service Aid

Administered through the School Finance Team, these formula grants are awarded to eligible school districts for principal and interest payments on projects adopted before July 1, 1997.

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
GRANTS (ONLY CATEGORY)	280,000	218,540	(61,460)
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
EDUCATION FUND	280,000	218,540	(61,460)

Tobacco Litigation Fund

These funds support grants to schools for tobacco prevention activities and for department personnel and operating costs. Nearly 60 local supervisory unions/districts receive up to \$30,000 annually (\$6 per pupil) to implement proven tobacco prevention initiatives. Using strategies such as district-level coordination, effective curricula, improved policies, youth cessation programs and parent and community education, Vermont schools have shown a significant decline in eighth-grade tobacco use over the last several years. The Safe and Healthy Schools division administers these funds.

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
PERSONAL SERVICES	145,112	142,152	(2,960)
OPERATING EXPENSES	18,119	18,114	(5)
GRANTS	<u>832,437</u>	<u>835,402</u>	<u>2,965</u>
TOTAL ALL CATEGORIES	995,668	995,668	0
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
TOBACCO FUND	995,668	995,668	0

Act 117 Cost Containment

Passed by the Legislature in 2000, Act 117 is designed to increase the capacity of the educational system to meet the needs of more students outside of special education, while curbing increases in special education costs. Act 117 programs are administered by the department through the Student Support division.

	FISCAL 2008 APPROP ACT	FISCAL YEAR 2009	
		STATE BOARD RECOMMEND	FY2009 TO FY2008
CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE			
PERSONAL SERVICES	1,070,190	1,118,415	48,225
OPERATING EXPENSES	121,515	121,307	(208)
GRANTS	<u>91,000</u>	<u>91,000</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL ALL CATEGORIES	1,282,705	1,330,722	48,017
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
SPECIAL FUND	1,282,705	1,330,722	48,017